

Appl. No. 09/760,364

PATENT

December 15, 2004

Proposed Claims to Office Action of August 24, 2004

**Proposed Claims in response to the Office Action mailed August 24, 2004:****Listing of Claims:**

- 1                   1 (currently amended): A method for identifying a therapeutic agent for use in  
2     treating a constitutive androstane receptor (CAR)-mediated disorder or condition, wherein the  
3     CAR-mediated disorder or condition is hypercholesterolemia, the method comprising:  
4                   identifying a candidate therapeutic agent by screening one or more compounds to  
5     determine whether said compounds ~~can modulate~~ decrease a CAR-mediated intermolecular  
6     interaction;  
7                   administering the candidate therapeutic agent to a test mammal; and  
8                   determining whether the level of a cholesterol indicator is ~~modulated~~ decreased in  
9     said test mammal in comparison to a test mammal in which the candidate therapeutic agent is not  
10    administered.
- 1                   2 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein said candidate therapeutic agent is  
2     5 $\beta$ -pregnan-3,20-dione.
- 3 (canceled)
- 1                   4 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the test mammal is a  
2     cholesterol-elevated mammal.
- 1                   5 (original): The method of claim 4, wherein the test mammal has a disruption in  
2     both CAR alleles.
- 1                   6 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein said cholesterol indicator is the  
2     level of serum cholesterol.

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1           7 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein said cholesterol indicator is the  
2 level of a member selected from the group consisting of HDL cholesterol, LDL cholesterol, and  
3 VLDL cholesterol.

1           8 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein said cholesterol indicator is the  
2 mRNA level of a gene involved in the regulation of cholesterol levels.

1           9 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein said CAR-mediated intermolecular  
2 interaction is CAR-mediated gene expression.

10-32 (canceled)

1           33 (currently amended): A method for identifying a therapeutic agent for use in  
2 treating a constitutive androstane receptor (CAR)-mediated disorder or condition, wherein the  
3 CAR-mediated disorder or condition is hypercholesterolemia, the method comprising:  
4           administering a compound to a CAR compromised mammal, wherein said CAR  
5 compromised mammal comprises a mutation, disruption or insertion in at least one CAR allele  
6 that prevents the production of a functional CAR polypeptide; and  
7           determining whether administration of the compound results in a change in  
8 cholesterol level compared to a CAR compromised mammal to which the compound is not  
9 administered.

1           34 (original): The method of claim 33, wherein the method further comprises  
2 administering the compound to a CAR non-compromised mammal and comparing the effect on  
3 the cholesterol level indicator of administering the compound to that of administering the  
4 compound to the CAR compromised mammal.

1           35 (original): The method of claim 33, wherein said cholesterol level indicator is  
2 the level of serum cholesterol.

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1           36 (original): The method of claim 33, wherein said cholesterol level indicator is  
2 the level of a member selected from the group consisting of HDL cholesterol, LDL cholesterol,  
3 and VLDL cholesterol.

1           37 (original): The method of claim 33, wherein said cholesterol level indicator is  
2 the mRNA level of a gene involved in the regulation of cholesterol levels.

1           38 (original): The method of claim 33, wherein said CAR compromised mammal  
2 is a mammal having a disruption in both CAR alleles.

1           39 (original): The method of claim 38, wherein said CAR compromised mammal  
2 is a mouse.

1           40 (original): The method of claim 38, wherein said disruption occurs in the  
2 coding region for the DNA binding domain of CAR.

1           41 (original): The method of claim 38, wherein said disruption in a CAR allele  
2 comprises an insertion at codons for amino acid positions from about amino acid 21 to about  
3 amino acid 86 of CARB.

42-59 (canceled)

1           60. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein said CAR-mediated intermolecular  
2 interaction comprises CAR binding to a ligand for CAR.